

Amendments to the Specification:

Please replace paragraphs [0017], [0026], and [0027] with the following amended paragraph:

[0017] For a more detailed description of the embodiments, reference will now be made to the following accompanying drawings:

FIGURE 1 is a schematic representation of a prior art formation testing tool;

FIGURE 2 is a schematic elevation view, partly in cross-section, of an embodiment of a formation tester apparatus disposed in a subterranean well;

FIGURE 3 is an embodiment of the extendable test probe assembly of the formation tester in a retracted position;

FIGURE 4 is an elevation view of the formation tester with the extendable test probe assembly in an extended position;

FIGURE 4A is a detailed view of the extendable test probe assembly of FIGURE 4;

FIGURE 5 is a top view of the seal pad of the extendable test probe assembly of FIGURE 4;

FIGURE 5A is a cross-section view of plane B-B of the seal pad shown in FIGURE 5;

FIGURE 5B is a cross-section view of plane A-A of the seal pad shown in FIGURE 5;

FIGURE 5C is a cross-section view of plane C-C of the seal pad shown in FIGURE 5;

FIGURE 5D is a detailed view of the section "D" of FIGURE 5B;

FIGURE 6 is a perspective view of the seal pad shown in FIGURE 5;

FIGURE 7 is a top view of another embodiment of the seal pad of the extendable test probe assembly of the formation tester;

FIGURE 7A is a side elevation view of the seal pad shown in FIGURE 7;

FIGURE 7B is a cross-section view of plane B-B of the seal pad shown in FIGURE 7; and

FIGURE 7C is a cross-section view of plane A-A of the seal pad shown in FIGURE 7A[.];

FIGURE 8 is a top view of an alternative seal pad of the extendable probe assembly of FIGURE 4; and

FIGURE 8B is a cross-section view of the plane A-A of the seal pad shown in FIGURE 8.

[0026] As the expandable material compresses against the formation 22, at least a portion of the expandable material 40 expands. The expansion occurs generally in the lateral direction relative to the direction of extension of the extendable test probe assembly 14, but may also occur in other directions.

As the expandable material 40 expands, the retainer 44 controls the expansion of the expandable material 40 around the perimeter of the expandable material 40. In the embodiment shown in FIGURES 5-5D, the retainer 44 retains the expandable material with a surface 46 around a portion of the perimeter of the expandable material 40, as best shown in cross-section view B-B of FIGURE 5A. The retainer 44 also retains the expandable material 40 with an expansion cavity 48, as best shown in cross-section views A-A of FIGURE 5B and detail view "D" of FIGURE 5D. Alternatively, as best illustrated in FIGURES 8 and 8B, the retainer 44 retains the expandable material with a surface 46 around the entire perimeter of the expandable material in a lateral plane of expansion of the expandable material when sealed against the borehole wall. As illustrated in FIGURE 8B, the retainer also retains the expandable material 40 with an expansion cavity 48. As the expandable material 40 expands when forming the seal with the wall of the borehole 20, the expandable material engages the surface 46 and also fills in the cavity 48 as shown in FIGURES 4 and 4A. Thus, the retainer 44 controls the expansion of the expandable material 40 by engaging at least a portion of the outer surface of the expandable material when sealed against the borehole wall. The retainer 44 shown in FIGURES 3-6 controls the expansion of the expandable material generally in the lateral direction to the direction of extension of the extendable test probe assembly 14. However, the retainer 44 may also be used to control expansion of the extendable material 44 in other directions as well.

[0027] As shown in FIGURES 5-5D, the retainer surface 46 and the expansion cavity 48 do not both surround the perimeter of the expandable material. However, any suitable configuration of either the retainer surface 46 or the expansion cavity 48 used together or individually may be used. For example, as illustrated in FIGURES 8 and 8B, the retainer 44 may retain the expandable material with a surface 46 around the entire perimeter of the expandable material in a lateral plane of expansion of the expandable material when sealed against the borehole wall. Additionally, as shown in FIGURES 3, 4, 4A, and 5-5D, the retainer 44 is separate from the base plate 18. However, the retainer 44 may also be integral with the base plate 18 and thus not be a separate piece. The retainer 44 also need not surround the entire perimeter of the expandable material 40, but need only surround a portion of the expandable material 40 to control as much expansion as desired.